

## Prominent Boston Man Wins Eccentric Californian's Estate; Woman Claimant Under Arrest, Accused of Forgery

Remarkable Will Case, Fought for Two Months, Has Sensational Climax

TOTAL STAKE WAS \$142,000

Mrs. Driggs Declared Dead Man Was Once Member of Counterfeiters' Band.

AN ALLEGED WILL PRESENTED

Jury Promptly Decided Property Belonged to Bay State Family That Claimed It.

LOS ANGELES, Sat., Saturday.—After a trial which has been in progress almost continuously since May 12, a jury in the probate department of the Supreme Court decided this week the famous Charles Hill case, one of the most remarkable which has ever engaged the attention of a California court, in favor of Salem D. Charles, of Boston.

AS a sensational climax Mrs. Gertrude Driggs, who offered an alleged will, was arrested on a charge of having forged a will.

The stake which half a score of litigants were fighting for was \$142,000, left by a peculiar old man, who a year ago died in a hospital here. No less than six persons laid claim to the money, many endeavoring to prove that the old man was a relative.

"Charles Hill" was born Salem Charles in the town of Brimfield, Mass., about ninety years ago. When a boy he ran away from home, and it was not until he was well along in years that he returned. His reception was not the most cordial, it is said. When he surprised his relatives by showing a fat bank account they warmed to him, and were in turn given a "cold shoulder" by one rather aged prodigal. He was a wanderer to the last, seen here, there and everywhere in California, and generally remembered because of his gray white hair and beard, his manner of carrying his cane on his arm in spite of his years, and his omnipresent tin can trumpet and everlasting false teeth.

When he went to the Good Samaritan Hospital, in this city, and asked to be cared for he was told, as a precaution only, and not a man, ill unto death. When he died his trunk was opened by the Public Administrator, it contained bundles of kindling wood, hairpins, paper napkins, cans, razors, and other laundry bills, old papers, memoranda, letters and an old Bible.

In one pocket in his clothes they found \$20 and in another purse \$200. The big sensation came when a key found in one pocketbook was tried in the lock of a safe deposit box at the Union Bank of Savings, and there, sewed up in an old chest protector, the Public Administrator found \$140,000 in gold and bills.

The story got out before the Public Administrator had even found a clew to the relatives of "Charles Hill." Then came a flood of letters from alleged heirs of the old man. Some of the six hundred claimants wrote from foreign countries.

From the old Bible the Public Administrator found a clew that took him to Massachusetts, and after months of work established to his own satisfaction the fact that Charles Hill's real name was Salem Charles, that he was a member of a famous Bay State family and that among his relatives was Salem D. Charles, Street Commissioner of Boston.

**Strange Story of Counterfeiters.** About the time the Charles family began proceedings to obtain the estate Mrs. Gertrude D. Driggs, of Dayton, Ohio, came forward with what purported to be a will executed by Charles Hill, leaving the entire estate to her daughter, Grace Driggs.

The old and remarkable story to the effect that Charles Hill had been a leader of a band of counterfeiters. According to her story the Nelson Driggs counterfeiting gang operated in Minnesota, Centralia, Ill., and Dayton, Ohio, from 1889 to 1893. Its members were Nelson Driggs, Jim Guyon, George Manning, Charles Hill and a sister of Mrs. Driggs. A sister of Mrs. Driggs, formerly a Mrs. Cole, was the wife of Guyon at that time. Mrs. Driggs went by the name of Morrison—a name later adopted by her daughters.

The records of the secret service department show that after raiding the counterfeiters in Iowa and Illinois the detectives became convinced that they were turning out the famous "Victory" brand of dollars, the plates for which have not been found to this day.

The gang was then at Dayton. Its headquarters was a house, it was there in 1893, that the secret service men descended upon the members. Three were cornered, Hill, Driggs and Guyon, of Massachusetts, surrounded by County policemen and detectives, but Driggs alone was caught. Hill and Guyon escaped by shooting their way through the latter the secret service men and killing one of them.

Driggs was given fifteen in Joliet and died there.

None of the other members of the gang was heard from again, with the exception of Hill, who sent word to Mrs. Driggs from Texas, according to her story, that he was surrounded by County policemen and detectives, but Driggs alone was caught. Hill and Guyon escaped by shooting their way through the latter the secret service men and killing one of them.

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CHARLES HILL (SALEM CHARLES) FROM A SNAPSHOT TAKEN OF HIM BY A HOTEL WAITRESS AT SANTA ANA, CAL.



MRS. GERTRUDE DRIGGS OF NEW YORK, WIDOW ACTRESS DAUGHTER IS NAMED AS CHARLES HILL HEIR.



FLORENCE DRIGGS SISTER OF GRACE DRIGGS.

## THINKS NEW YORK A BEAUTIFUL CITY

A Reader Combats Strongly the Assertion That This Metropolis Is Ugly.

NEVER SAW EQUAL ABROAD

Declares That Criticized Sky scrapers Are Impressive and Even Beautiful.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

In an article in one of the most conservative of the popular illustrated magazines New York is spoken of as "one of the ugliest cities," and in the current number of another monthly of equal standing the architectural quality and aestheticism of the so-called "skyscraper" is assailed, and a well known journalist (now deceased) is quoted as calling it "the most hideous of cities," and deprecating the "lugged sky line" as seen from the rivers or harbor.

Now to me New York is one of the most beautiful and interesting of cities, and a three years' sojourn in Europe, including visits or residence in almost every city of any pretensions in England and the Continent, has not, to my mind, revealed any city which on the whole offers so much either in the aesthetic or other directions.

Constantinople has perhaps the most beautiful natural situation of the large European cities, but I do not think it can compare with New York, unless one prefers the limited and tamer scenery of the Turkish capital's surroundings. London and Paris are also beautiful, but I do not think they can compare with New York, unless one prefers the limited and tamer scenery of the Turkish capital's surroundings.

Some Parts Not Handsome. It is perfectly true that there are some parts and some things notably the elevated structure about New York that are not beautiful, but so there are about other large towns, and with less excuse on the score of utility.

The domes of New York are bad enough, but they have a certain variety and interest which are lacking in the dingy and monotonous masonry of London and Hackney districts of London, and they are certainly freer from foul odors than those of Paris and other Latin cities of large size.

Wide avenues of Upper New York compare favorably with the Paris boulevards and in this respect London is almost entirely lacking.

It is true that some of the downtown streets of New York have a horrible appearance from the high buildings which are packed so close together, but the effect is impressive and not repelling, which is perhaps the reverse in the case of a stranger exploring Fetter lane and other alleyways serving as streets of the business part of London, to say nothing of the narrow streets of the cities of the Latin countries, in which the buildings are so close together that the streets are narrow enough to make one feel cramped and uncomfortable without impressing one.

Skyscrapers Aptly. To my mind the high buildings of New York are one of its greatest points of beauty, and I cannot understand why we should be expected to admire the effect produced by the towers of some dwarfed by comparison castle or mediaeval town and at the same time deprecate the same effect produced on a much grander scale and greatly enhanced by the natural situation in the case of our own city.

The writer went to some inconvenience to visit the City of Carcassonne, mentioned by the celebrated French architect Viollet le Duc as having the "finest skyline in Europe," which, however, is not at all so impressive as the view of lower New York from a vessel approaching the Battery, the latter being to the writer's mind, the most impressive architectural display in the world, not excepting the Pyramids.

The interiors of many of the office buildings of New York are fitted up and decorated with a magnificence hardly equalled by the palaces of European monarchs, most of the latter being, in fact, rather tawdry and cheap in comparison.

In the bay, in the river, in the Palisades, in the Riverside Drive and Morningside Heights (the latter already successfully rivaling the Acropolis of Athens), in its proximity to the sea, in the picturesque display of shipping, which London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna or any other large city which may with reason be placed in comparison absolutely lacks. The view from the harbor by night is something absolutely unique.

I do not mean to depreciate or discourage efforts to further beautify the city, but I think it better to specify the particular points of ugliness or inferiority, instead of indulging in what appears to be the present fashion of uttering abusive generalities about the beauty of our fair city.

S. STILLWELL.

NEW YORK, July 29, 1903.

ACCUSE CAREY OF FORGERY.

Keller, Loomis & Co., of New York, Cause Man's Arrest in Pittsburgh.

## ASKS DEWEY'S VIEW ON BATTLE SHIPS

Secretary Moody Seeks Expert Opinion on O'Neill-Bowles Design.

APPROVAL IS WITHDRAWN

Rear Admirals Make Spirited Reply to the Arguments of Bradford and Melville.

HERALD BUREAU.

No. 724 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y., WASHINGTON, D. C., Saturday.

Approval of the O'Neill-Bowles design for 12,000 ton battle ships has been withdrawn, and, after all, the plan of the Board of Construction may not be finally indorsed by Secretary Moody.

The Secretary has written to several naval experts, including, it is said, Admiral Dewey and Rear Admiral Taylor, asking for an expression of opinion upon the design. He was moved to do this by the strong representations made by Rear Admiral Bradford in his rejoinder to the arguments submitted by Rear Admirals O'Neill and Bowles. He will not make final decision until he receives the opinion of these experts.

Admiral Dewey and Rear Admiral Taylor are known to favor the suggestion of Rear Admiral Bradford for an "improved Maine" rather than the O'Neill-Bowles design, which sacrifices speed and radius of action for armament.

Rear Admirals O'Neill and Bowles to-day addressed to the Secretary of the Navy letters in reply to the arguments of Rear Admiral Bradford, which were indorsed by Rear Admiral Melville. In part Admiral O'Neill says:

"I do not think our battle ships should be given speed for the purpose of running away, and the 12,000 ton ships proposed by the Board would not have to run away from the 16,000 ton ships, supposing them to belong to an enemy. As the latter carry but two guns more than the proposed ships, but series being equal in other respects, the vessels so nearly equal in gun power could well afford to try conclusions with the larger ships."

"All United States vessels are more heavily armed—type for type—than foreign ships, and I am confident that none of our ships will have to run away from any foreign vessels of similar class."

"No single ship, no matter how powerful, can be expected to successfully cope with a fleet, and therefore should not be subject to such a contingency."

"The statements contained in Admiral Melville's indorsement of Admiral Bradford's proposition to build an 'improved Maine' with reference to the increased strain on the ship due to the progressive improvement of the powder and to constant trouble with the gun mounts and emplacements, and it is not the number of them, but their character, that has to be considered. There need be no apprehension upon this point."

Rear Admiral Bowles, after a comparison of the speed of the latest vessels and their coal carrying capacity, says:

"The design of the modified Maine, of 12,000 tons, is a very good one, but it is not a knowledge of the resistance of the vessel at various speeds and the economy of the engines and boilers, which he has made from members of the General Board."

Upon his return from Massachusetts Secretary Moody will take up the entire matter of 12,000 ton battle ships for further consideration in the light of the recent comments which have been made and of the opinions which he has asked from members of the General Board.

ACCIDENTAL SHOT KILLS WIFE.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Saturday.—While Policeman Garcia, of Spring Valley, was cleaning his revolver to-day it was accidentally discharged and the bullet struck his wife in the leg, severing an artery. She died in twenty minutes.

Keller, Loomis & Co., dealers in art novelties, are located at No. 28 East Twenty-second street.

## PASSWORD TO SEAT IN A STREET CAR

"Juncta Juvant," Says a Man to a Woman Hanging to a Strap.

"LEX LOCI"—"PLEASE SIT"

Residents of a Chicago Suburb Form a Lodge to Teach Railway Manners.

CHICAGO, Ill., Saturday.—"Divided we stand; united we shall have seats, maybe, perhaps."

With this as its motto, the Austin Jure Humano Club is trying to impress upon suburbanites that it is the duty of members to give up their places on street cars so that women may sit down. Two score of Austinites have agreed that it is scandalous that women should stand in the cars all the way from their places of business to the beautiful suburb. So the Austin Jure Humano Club was formed, and now no woman who is a member of it—and there are as many women as men members—need hang to a strap after her day's work is done.

"Juncta juvant," will remark a man who sees a woman standing in his car.

"Lex loci," she will answer, if she's a member of the club, and sink into the place he has provided for her.

The club will solve the problem, the Austinites think. They are planning an extension of their system, which eventually will result, they say, in the adoption of the method by everybody. Just now the organization is not large. It has forty members, however, and hundreds have agreed to join the organization.

As the club is as secret as a lodge in the Masonic order, only members know just what it is, but according to reliable information, a method of communication has been arranged so that when a man sees a woman hanging to a strap in a car he will speak to her in Latin or in some other language that the club has selected. If she is a member of the club she will answer in kind, and he will then give up his place to her.

This magic password, which will give her a seat, however, is so carefully guarded that only the initiated are supposed to know it. "Lex loci," though, is the answer which will bring the woman a place to sit down.

Officers of the organization are three in number, but thus far they have managed to conceal their identity. They have no special rights, however, and they are required to invite all members of the association to take their seats. Failing in this they must pay fines.

Naturally, the women of Austin are enthusiastic over the idea. They are asking their friends to join, promising satisfaction, no matter what happens. Wives, mothers and children are organizing to join the Austin club.

CATHOLIC CONVENTION OPENS.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] ATLANTA, Ga., N. J., Saturday.—Governor Franklin Murphy, of New Jersey, owing to a lame leg, was prevented to-day from attending the third National Convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, representing half a million members. The Right Rev. James McFaul, Bishop of Trenton, opened the Convention and presided. The delegates first attended solemn mass in St. Nicholas' Church. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Messmer, of Green Bay, Wis. Forty States, including Puerto Rico, were represented.

READY TO DEPRESS TRACKS. Central Prepared for Work Upon New Terminals, Bids for Which Will Be Opened Tuesday.

Work on the projected improvements at the New York Central terminal will probably begin within a week. Vice President Vilgus said yesterday that bids for the contracts to depress the yards at the Grand Central Station will be opened on Tuesday next. The preliminary work of changing the tracks and getting everything in readiness for the work has been completed.

HERALD FREE ICE FUND.

American Ice Co., 1,000 tons of ice previously acknowledged \$6,341.78  
R. G. Dun & Co. 100.00  
A Friend 5.00  
Cash 5.00  
The Boys of Eighty-second street 3.55  
Mrs. Gustave Kaufmann 5.00  
Lenore, Ethel and Beatrice Schlessinger 2.00  
Total \$6,402.73

Ice stations are located at: Mariners' Temple, Oliver and Henry streets.

No. 30 Washington street.  
No. 41 West Thirty-ninth street.  
No. 67 East Sixteenth street.  
No. 28 Livingston street.  
No. 33 Columbia street.  
No. 25 Ridge street.  
No. 45 West Twenty-sixth street.

THE HERALD EMPLOYS NO CANNASERS OR COLLECTORS. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HERALD FREE ICE FUND SHOULD BE SENT DIRECT TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE PROMPTLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Ninety-four thousand pounds of ice are now being distributed at the HERALD's eight stations each morning, and this amount will be held to until another hot wave comes, and then there will be an increase, if the contributions come with the present regularity.

The largest single gift received yesterday was \$100 from R. G. Dun & Co. This is a regular annual contribution that has not failed to be received at about this time each season for many years.

Three little friends of the fund sent this vote yesterday, with the enclosure referred to—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—We hereby hand to you three and ninety-five hundredths dollars (\$3.95), being the amount collected by the boys of Eighty-second street, near Lexington avenue, for the children's or ice fund. Yours truly, MURKIN HELLER, President. JOSEPH MURPHY, Treasurer. SIDNEY WILSON, Secretary.

NEW YORK, Aug. 1, 1903.

From three other little friends, who are not strangers to the fund, came this letter—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—Please find enclosed \$2, our annual contribution to your worthy charity. LEXNORE, ETHEL AND BEATRICE SCHLESSINGER. NEW YORK, July 31, 1903.

Mr. Arthur Hass, leader of the DeWitt Clinton High School Orchestra, of New York, composed of pupils of that institution, writes that he is to take his boys on a vacation, and that during it they will give concerts for the benefit of the fund. The first concert will be given in a few days in the Brandon House, at Greenwood Lake, N. J.

DE HIRSCH FUND'S GROWTH. Committee Expects to Begin Work on the Proposed Memorial in October.

Contributions to the De Hirsch memorial fund amounting to \$2,500 have been made since June 21, when the HERALD, at the request of the Monument Association, published an appeal for funds. The total, which then was \$5,651, now is \$8,248.32.

With this sum in hand the committee is satisfied that the amount needed will be subscribed in time for the actual work of construction to be begun in October.

Contributions may be sent to the HERALD. All checks should be made payable to August Belmont, treasurer.

LAUNCH LARGEST FLOATING DOCK. In the presence of several thousand people the largest floating dry dock on the Atlantic coast was successfully launched at Perth Amboy, N. J., yesterday. The dock, which is owned by the Haritan Dry Dock Company, was built by that concern at a cost of \$150,000, and is 302 feet over all, 92 feet wide, 42 feet deep and has a floating capacity of 22 feet over her keel block.

## RILEY'S "SCOOP" BROUGHT FAME

Parody on Poe's Style First Attracted Attention to the Hoosier Poet.

AFTER SUCKER, GOT WHALE

Literary Scalawagery, as He Calls It, Recalled by Visit of Former Anderson Editor.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Saturday.—J. Oscar Henderson, former Auditor of State, and at one time one of the owners of the Kokomo Dispatch, recently had a chat about old times with his former contributor, James Whitcomb Riley. Incidentally the subject of the big "scoop" which Mr. Riley engineered for him before Mr. Riley had published any of his poetry in volume form was discussed.

Mr. Riley was at that time plain J. V. Riley. "It was before I unfolded my name," said the Hoosier poet in his characteristic phrase.

"That was a piece of literary scalawagery which I began to feel a little ashamed of after it had progressed awhile."

"I thought I would hook a sucker, but instead of that I snagged a whale."

"At that time I was contributing poems weekly to the Anderson Democrat. Things were dull with the newspapers, and the question had been discussed whether the name of an author had much to do with the success of his poems. In order to test my theory I wrote a poem to which I attempted to give a tang of the style of Poe, and sent it to the Anderson Democrat. Accompanying the poem was a statement by the editor that the poem had been found in the fly leaf of an old book and that any one who wished to see the original could do so by calling at the office."

"People began to call and it became necessary to produce the manuscript. I had a friend who was an artist, and we collected such of Poe's writings as could be found and made an imitation of his manuscript in faded ink."

"I came out in the Anderson Democrat with a compliment to the poem, and I had a friend who was an artist, and we collected such of Poe's writings as could be found and made an imitation of his manuscript in faded ink."

"Well, that poem soon became a white elephant on our hands, and after we had had it for a basis of numerous 'scoops' the secret of its origin was finally disclosed."

"It served the purpose for which it was intended, and I proved my point."

"I was amused recently to receive a marked copy of an Eastern paper in which one of the admirers and close students of Poe had found the fake manuscript I had written, and not knowing that it was not genuine had given the poem minute study, and from internal evidence in a statement had discovered when in Poe's life it had been written."

## Lord & Taylor, Broadway and 20th St.

Special Sale in

WOMEN'S SUIT DEPT.

of Shirt Waist Suits

in black and navy Foulard Silk, showing various dots and trimmed with tucks and fagoting \$11.50

White Lawn and colored Pique Dresses \$5.50 and \$7.50

Clearing Sale of Girls' Wash Dresses.

AGES 4 TO 12 YEARS.

Girls' High Neck Guimpe and Blouse Dresses, in gingham, lawns and dimities; formerly \$2.00 to \$3.00, reduced to \$1.00 \$3.00

Women's and Girls' of Blue and Black Brilliantine, Bathing Suits with sailor collar and braid trimmings; special \$4.00

Special Silk Values.

Black Silks, Several odd lots, including Louisine, Liberty Satin, Fancy Moire and Brocades, value \$1.00 58c.

Colored Taffeta Remnants, value 75c. and 85c., to close, at 50c.

Dress Goods Dep't.

Challies, 2,750 yards, all wool, German materials, light and dark colors, in dots, small and large figures, rosebuds, scrolls, stripes; this season's patterns; 30c. to 60c. values 35c.

Wash Goods Dep't.

Printed Batiste and DIMITIES.

15,500 yards, white and colored grounds, large variety of designs; sold all season from 12 1/2c. to 15c. yard, at 9c.

Wash Goods Remnants, white and colored, to close at 1/2 Price.